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## [Klock enjoys summer success](#)

By Nate Beutel Niagara Gazette

NIAGARA FALLS — After enduring a rough freshman campaign at Niagara University, Joel Klock turned it around in a big way this summer.

The two-time Niagara Gazette Player of the Year at Grand Island earned National Baseball Congress All-American honors for his play with the Nevada (Mo.) Griffons. The left-hander went 6-2 with a 2.64 ERA for Nevada, which won the MINK League's South Division and finished third at the NBC World Series.

"I had a great time," he said. "The biggest thing I learned was just to improve each time I go out on the mound. The biggest improvement I made was getting down in the zone and throwing strikes. A couple of the older guys really did that and were successful and I found that same success, too."

Klock's best performance came in the World Series when he tossed a three-hit hit shutout.

"Each week and each start I got a lot better," he said. "I feel like I didn't make enough adjustments at school and I would make the same mistakes. This summer I tried to realize what I was doing wrong, correct it and help myself out."

In addition, Klock aided his efforts at the plate, hitting a respectable .250 with 10 RBIs. He played a handful of games in right field and it's his hope that he gets similar opportunities at the dish this year at NU.

"I did a lot of work in the cage... and I still love to hit," he said.

Regardless of position, Klock is sure that he'll be a much more prepared player, both mentally and physically, for the Purple Eagles.

"Hopefully the success experienced over the summer will carry over into the fall," Klock said, while noting that he's in much better shape after running on a daily basis. "With the competition being comparable to MAAC play and getting out of my comfort zone a little bit, I'm really ready to get going with my sophomore year."

